

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-15 as being anticipated by Ecer et al. under 35 USC §102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration of that rejection is respectfully requested.

In the present invention, the carbon film is formed on the hardened layer. Consequently, a fuel pump which uses the present invention, is made to have high endurance even under high load.

The Ecer et al. patent teaches making wear resistant steel articles with carbon, oxygen and nitrogen implanted in the surface thereof. The oxygen film is formed on the nitride layer, the carbon film is prepared on the oxide film and thereafter the cover film is prepared using ion implantation. The wear resistant steel articles produced thereby result in a carbon film which is very thin and would not provide the high endurance when used in a fuel pump. The range of the loads in the performance tests shown in Fig. 2 of the Ecer et al. patent differs entirely from the range of the present invention. In the former, the articles are made to prevent baking or burning, and by its very nature such a film is fundamentally different from that of the present invention.

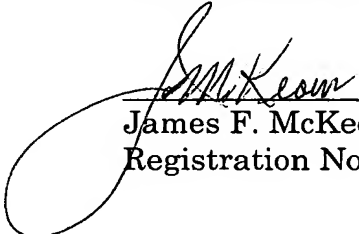
In the present invention, the fuel pump comprises three major elements, namely the base member, the hardened layer formed on the base member, and the carbon film formed on the hardened layer. No such teaching is found in the Ecer et al. patent.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.50923US).

Respectfully submitted,



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